THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFATE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: (a) to (e) Government have come across some media reports in this regard. Under Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, sale and purchase of human organs is banned. There has been no specific complaint regarding sale of kidneys by Indian donors to British Patients within the country. The question of instituting an inquiry, therefore, does not arise, at present.

Ban on cigarette advertisements

1238. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended a ban on both advertising and sponsorship, as it is essential to reduce tobacco consumption significantly and quickly;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that cigarette related advertisements are prominently published in newspapers/magazines/electronic media; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The deliberations among Member States on the ban on advertising and sponsorship of tobacco products under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) has not concluded. However, international experience, as documented and articulated in WHO publications, has shown that a comprehensive ban on advertisement and promotional activities by tobacco companies can be an useful tool to reduce tobacco consumption.

(b) and (c) The comprehensive legislation titled "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001. When enacted, it will impose a complete ban on advertisements of tobacco products and sponsorships by tobacco companies.

Issuance of orders for chemists

1239. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has issued orders to be complied with by the chemists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the chemists are following the same; and

(d) he reasons behind issuance of such an order?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Government of India has not issued any specific orders to be complied with by the chemists. However, the chemists are required to comply with the provision under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, in respect of sale of drugs while discharging their duties.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Two-child norm

1240. DR. M. N. DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make any comprehensive plan to control population explosion in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the two-child norm is being considered as not feasible; and

(c) if so, the other norm conceived in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) the Government has adopted, the National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000 which envisages certain National Socio-demographic Goals to be achieved by 2010 for paving the way for a stable population in the country by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth and social development. It provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India, and to achieve net replacement levels (TFR=2.1) by 2010.

(b) and (c) The National Population Policy 2000 (NPP 2000) does not specifically adovocate a 'two child norms'. it affirms the commitment of Government towards stabilizing population of the country by allowing its citizens to make voluntary and informed decisions about their family size.

Malpractices at Test Tube Baby centres

1241. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the exhorbitant charges and other malpractices at the Test Tube Baby centres;